THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) All aircrafts operating in the North-Eastern region from Kolkata are safe, airworthy and serviceable. Average age of aircrafts plying used in North-East region is approximately 10.5 years.

(b) and (c) Alliance Air operates three flights per week on the route Kolkata/ Silchar/Imphal and return and also three flights per week on route Kolkata/ Aizwal/Imphal and return. During July to September, 2001, only 1.92% of these flights were delayed Ex-Kolkata and Ex-Imphal, while 50.33% of flights were delayed/cancelled due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, consequen- tial and miscellaneous reasons not within the control of the airline.

Bail-Out Plan for Aviation Sector

159. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines/Air India and other private taxi operators have submitted a bail-out plan to Government seeking certain concessions due to recession in air travel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to various demands put forward by these airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Jet Airways only have submitted a proposal seeking several relief measures to tide over the serious economic problems and recessionary conditions being faced by the aviation sector. Some of the important measures are;

(i) Indemnity from the government to cover the additional financial burden due to Insurance surcharge levied by Insurance companies;

(ii) Retention of 50% of Inland Air Travel Tax (IATT) by the airlines;

(iii) 30% relief in Category II & IIA operations;

(iv) Exemption from Customs Duty on import of aircraft and engines;

(v) Extension of the limit of 4% Central Salex Tax on Aviation Turbine Fuel to all aircraft operations;

(vi) Permission to hedge fuel prices; and

(vii) 50% reduction in Landing, Route Navigation Facility charges (RNFC) and Parking charges.

(c) These proposals are under consideration of the Government.

Closure of sick industries

†160. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of industries have become sick in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, state-wise;

(c) the reasons for their sickness; and

(d) whether Government have made any efforts to revive these sick units; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). As per the latest available information, State-wise details of sick industrial units are given in Statement. *(See below)*

(c) According to the RBI report, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness. The main causes include deficiencies in planning, management, marketing, etc.

(d) The Government has taken number of steps for revival of sick industrial units which, *inter-alia,* include guidelines of the RBI to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, National Equity Fund, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.